

June 80

# Lakehead amateur radio club

# **HIGH-Q**

## JUNE MEETING

The next regular meeting of the LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (inc) will take place this thursday June 12 at the EMO Building on Waterloo Street. The time is 8:00 p.m. sharp, and this will be the last meeting before the summer. There are several projects that are in the works so attendance should be more than usual.

With the start of summer, naturally, every ham thinks of FIELD DAY. The LARC members will once again take part in this venture. There will be an executive meeting and those who volunteered to help with field day on June 14, downstairs at the EMO building, time is 7:30 p.m. Field day this year is the last weekend in June which also will tie in with the annual Rendevouz Days celebrations.

\* \* \* \* \*

Here is another great event planned for the month of june. A cruise on the WELCOME SHIP. The boat will depart the Thunder Bay marina in Port Arthur at 10:00 p.m. and get back to shore at 1:00 a.m. There will be a light buffet on board and also a bar for those so inclined to get rid of the chill. Drinks will be \$1:25.

The day is JUNE 26 (a thursday) for the harbour cruise. The scenic trip will go past the elevators, south to the Kam River, up the Kam to the turn basin near Great Lakes Mill and back. With the late sunset at this time of year, it should be a most enjoyable trip.

The price for all this is only \$10:00 per person and this includes the buffet and party sound music. Bill Unger is arranging this and he needs to know who is coming by June 21 at the latest so that the staff on the welcome know how much food to prepare, (and weather or not to stock extra booze) Please let Bill know as soon as possible, at 623-1542.

HARBOUR CRUISE ON THE WELCOME

THURSDAY JUNE 26

10: p.m. to 1:00a.m.

be at PORT ARTHUR MARINA FOR BOARDING BY 9:45 p.m.

cost is only \$10.00 per person

CALL BILL VE3-EFC IF YOU ARE GOING @ 623-1542

JUNE HI - Q

CLUB JACKETS

There has been some discussion between club members over the past couple of weeks about the availability of CLUB jackets. Ron KRJ has approached a local manufacturer who has agreed to supply jackets, complete with, Call Sign, Name, Club identification, emblem and Royal Blue with Gold.

Each individual will be required to supply the correct size req'd, his name and call.

To get the jackets for the \$34 (plus Tax) we require 20 members(min) ordering same.

If you are interested clip out the following ordering form and give to Ron at the next meeting or mail to him as soon as possible. SAMPLES WILL BE ON HAND AT THE JUNE 12th MEETING, so if you are interested why not come out and try one on for size.

clip out

..... CLUB JACKET ORDER FORM - LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

NAME ..... CALL SIGN .....

ADDRESS ..... TELE. NO. .....

SIZE .....

NAME TO BE PUT ON JACKET .....

REMEMBER YOU are responsible for supplying the CORRECT size.

Mail above form, with payment to Ron Armstrong

424 CHURCHILL DRIVE

Thunder Bay, Ontario

Tel. No. 577-6761

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JUNE HI-Q

PROPAGATION FORECAST....via ARRL RTTY Bulletin

The solar flux rose to 285 on May 25. This was a 1980 high, exceeded in cycle 21 only in November. The solar flux average for May, 217, was also a 1980 high. Except for May 25 and 26, propagation was very good in the second half of May. Conditions will be less attractive in early June. The solar flux is dropping sharply and WWV K values are tending to be higher.

The morning longpath propagation on 28 mhz by way of the southern hemisphere, via western Australia, the South western Pacific, and Japan should continue in June, when the WWV K index is low. Increasingly intense sporadic E activity may hinder or modify this pattern in June, but the mode should still work during the early daylight hours.

The solar flux will not be a major factor in long distance communication this summer. Low geomagnetic activity is more important, as is the level of atmospheric noise, which will average higher in our summer months.

\* \* \* \* \*

CANADIAN 902-928 MHZ OPERATION which became legal February 28, presently permits only A3 (AM) and F3 (FM) telephony. However efforts are presently underway to expand the new band to include other modes of operation.

CANADIAN MARITIME PROVINCE CALLSIGNS may be in for a change. Amateurs in those areas are being polled as to their preferences by the 1980 Maritime Convention Committee in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Results of the poll will go to the three provincial societies on April 1.

.....CARF News Service

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FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

A Mosley TA-33 Jr and CDR-44 rotator. Also an 80-40 meter trap dipole and balun. If interested in these items call Bert Lambers VE3-BKY @ 577-7737.

If you buy the above you might be interested in the following. Bill VE3-ECM has a high power conversion kit for the TA-33 Jr. This is the MPK-3 and has never been used. For more information, call Bill @ 622-4955.

If you have anything to sell trade, or if you are looking for some gear, give the editors of HI-Q a call at least 10 days prior to the regular meeting and have them put it in HI-Q. This publication goes to a lot of hams in the city and district, and is read by many other hams on cities that we trade newsletters with. The price is reasonable,....the cost of a phone call to either Bob @ 767-6541 or Mike @ 577-5006.

JUNE HI - Q

LEGION ROAD RACE - 1980

An annual event for the members of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club and again this year over 400 runners participated. The Legion road race, sponsored by the Thunder Bay legion, over a distance of 10 miles through the streets of the city was completed in approximately 50mins 53 secs by the first place winner. Check points were set up throughout the 10 miles and the runners progress was radioed via TWO - METERS and VE3YQT repeater to Dan KRO and Dennis JAQ at the start/finish line. The organizers thanked all of the various organizations for their assistance and even the LARC was mentioned this year, something which apparently has not been done in the past. Ken EFZ had the good idea of displaying the club banner, right up front on the review stand for all to see- good idea Ken. Club members in attendance with 2 - meters: Ken EFZ, Pat HFS, Bill XJ, Len LMQ, Bob JAY, Vic JAR, Tom EEW, Gary HJS, Stan KRN, Dennis JAQ, and Bob IDJ. Arnold JAA / portable was heard in the background offering advice to Scott \_\_\_\_\_ who was riding the St. John's Ambulance. John HTM relayed all the latest information to CFPA for up - to - the minute reports on the race progress. Just about all the Hams participated in the refreshments served up by Branch 6 of the Legion, after the race. Thanks to all those participating and with a little more organizing at the beginning we will all look forward to next year! If your name was left off the list above please let us know.

Did you know that a 40 watt fluorescent bulb is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times more efficient than a 40 watt incandescent?

That a mercury vapour bulb is about 5 times more efficient!

That lower wattage bulbs (fluorescent) are available called Watt - Miser ®(GE) These watt miser bulbs save about 14% - 20% in lighting costs over the standard 40 watt bulb with little change in lighting effectiveness.

High pressure and low pressure sodium are at present the most efficient at about 5 times that of mercury vapour bulbs. These bulbs give off a slight amber colour and are excellent for exterior yard lighting.

JUNE HT-Q

LETTERS , , , , WE GET LETTERS (at the DOC that is)

Every district office of the DOC receives many letters and some you might call unusual. Sometimes even though a complain sounds unlikely the radio inspector finds it has a basis in fact. For example, a woman complained of hearing voices in her closet every evening. The inspector found that there were voices; metal underneath the plaster was picking up a local radio station.

In another case, a man who heard voices in his head was quite right. His bridgework was picking up radio stations.

Another woman complained of hearing voices. As a radio inspector soon discovered, her hearing aid was picking up transmissions from a GRS operator next door.

Other interference problems are often caused by small electrical appliances whose switches have become defective with use, such as doorbells or Christmas lights. Or heating pads. In some cases the person may have even forgotten there's one in the house. But the inspector traces the problem to a heating pad that has become well-worn comforting new-born puppies, keeping a pet monkey warm, or simply fermenting wine at just the right temperature.

Some people even want to be radio inspectors. A prisoner asked for and received detailed information on how to become a radio inspector then caused some embarrassment by posing as an inspector in hotels and restaurants, and leaving a trail of unpaid bills behind.

.....via 'THE ONTARIO AMATEUR'

THE ORIGIN OF '73' ..... via WINDSOR A.R.C.

To add to the many reports on the origin of the telegraphic term '73', Louise Moreau, telegraph authority and historian has a few more.

Through her research, she uncovered the fact that it was devised as a telegraphers toast to Andrew Carnegie on his 73rd birthday. But this proved to be erroneous as the term '73' was already in use by that date. The story that it was used as a secret sign by members of the Railroad Telegraph Union was similarly disproved because the term '73' was used before 1909, the beginning of the Railroad Telegraph Union. The theory that is was used in the early west, referring to the Winchester 73 rifle (mans best friend in those lawless days) was discounted when it was proven that Winchester did not even make a 73 type of gun when '73' was in regular use in telephone circuits.

Mrs. Moreau found through authentic sources that even in 1853, the signal was in use, but at that time, it meant "My love to you". In the 1859 Western Union '92' code of phrases for operator use, '73' meant 'Accept my compliments' but by 1908, after various changes, it assumed the present day meaning of "BEST REGARDS".

So you see the actual origin on the term is still in doubt!

JUNE HI - Q

# COMPUTNICKS ! MEETING

MAY 15, 1980 - A first for the LARC.

A number of club members interested in the fascinating world of computers met at the EMO building to discuss the need, if any for a computer group.

It was unanimously agreed that such a group would be beneficial providing we followed the following general guidelines.

1. No EXECUTIVE or membership dues
2. Each member? take an active part in presenting his/her most recent or pet project at a designated meeting -
3. That the group concentrate on APPLICATIONS and INTERFACING of computers to the real world.
4. That the group meet informally once a month or every second month, preferably at the home of the individual giving the presentation - depending upon the number of persons present.
5. That NON - Radio Amateurs be invited, providing they are interested in the above guidelines..

To kick off the evening, Johj HTM described in detail the software and hardware for the VE3YQT repeater " BRAG TAPE " and the touch tone pad check out program. ( he probably lost most of us back about " .... push the \* button ....") The presentation was however well worth the time spent attending and we invite everyone with even the slightest interest in computers to attend the next meeting.

Bill EFC will be presenting one of his favourite KIM - 1 programs, date and time and place to be announced. Probably when he gets it working! If you wish to attend let Bill or John HTM know in advance.

Hams with TRS - 80, PET and KIM - 1 were in attendance: John HTM, Laurie BCD, Dennis JAQ, Ron KRJ, Jamie KR?, Mike EEI, Bill XJ, Phil AXL and Bob IDJ.

The meeting closed at about 9:30p.m. and re - opened at Shakeys pizza parlour and lasted until about 11pm.

We again extend an open invitation to anyone interested.

Bob VE3IDJ

Did you know that:

The Thunder Bay generating station extension will put<sup>a</sup> two-unit coal fired, 300 - megawatt generator on stream,

It will be wholly dependent upon computer control system.

At full load the two units will burn 220 tons of coal per hour. At full load the plant will require 95000 gals per minute of water for condenser cooling purposes.

The proposed in-service dates are January, 1981 and July, 1981 for condenser cooling purposes.

Seems like these two units can support a few more Linears in town!

JUNE HI-Q

DULUTH

SWAPFEST

More than 250 hams from the region spent Saturday May 3/80 attending a Swapfest at Duluth, browsing over surplus ham gear attending various sessions and looking at some of the newer equipment which a few of the locals brought down for display purposes. Like most swapfests I have attended the majority of the equipment for sale was of the boat anchor type, although a few good buys were picked up such as PL - 259 connectors for about 50 cents each.

A number of LARC members attended the discussion sessions such as the one on OSCAR, with excellent slides showing the construction of some of the Oscar satellites. A tape recording used to describe the slide program was to put it mildly - terrible - the audio was so muffled that it made the narrator almost impossible to make out. Too bad because the program was well put together otherwise.

Another meeting which also attracted a large group of LARC members to was the Traffic - Message handling session. To say the least this was a very revealing and informative session.

We discovered that MARS - not the planet but rather Military Amateur Radio Service - like most organizations had a few problems. The army Vs Navy Vs Air force. It appeared from comments made by those in the " KNOW " that the " Competition " was getting quite keen between the various groups in MARS and that a unification of sorts was in the offing.

We were also introduced to some of the ELITE of the ARRL. The great majority of whom I believe serious, dedicated amateurs, trying to do an almost impossible job of keeping the morale build up within the troops, getting traffic nets established and running smoothly. These people deserve a lot of credit for the work they do.

At this time we were introduced to the Dakota director of ARRL - well this was an experience all by itself. To our amazement we found that the sole reason we Amateurs have the new bands ( 3 ) from the WARC convention was all due to the ARRL! and especially we owe this great triumph to the president of ARRL Mr. Darnals, who according to the speaker, almost single handedly won this battle for the amateur fraternity because he happened to be a personal friend of some fellow in the military. This relationship resulted in the forces " turning over these frequencies to us lowly amateurs ". It seems like the rest of the world amateur organizations maybe should have stayed home. ( Wayne Green eat your heart out!!! )

Another session some of the fellows attended was the one on DX. Not being a great DX hound I missed this one and other than the fact that a super duper antenna was discussed I do not know anything more about it.

Ron, KRJ won a free 1980 handbook.

Vic JAR when returning through customs was asked if he had anything to declare he replied " just some junk ". The customs officer requested to see the junk and replied with the comment " yes it sure is JUNK! "

Other hams from LARC in attendance: Laurie BCD, Bill XJ, Bob JAY, VIC JAR, Gary HJS, Tom EEW, Jim KRD, Jamie KRH?, Ron KrJ, Bob IDJ.

A good weekend was enjoyed by all. The Amateur Radio Club of Duluth and the organizers deserve a tremendous amount of credit for the swapfest

## THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF ANTENNA INSTALLATION

..... from SINCLAIR RADIO 'Tech News E.R.P.'

In many cases, when a newly installed antenna is not performing as expected, it may be because the installation was done incorrectly. Not all installers are technically trained in antenna performance theory. As a result, some antennas are installed well mechanically, but inadvertently, they are poorly set up electrically. This causes depreciated antenna performance.

The following precautions can be considered to reduce the possibility of antenna malfunction and can drastically affect the performance of an antenna system.

- 1: When installing a yagi antenna that is supported in the centre, the support pipe should not be in the same plane as the elements. For example if the support mast is inserted through the elements and fastened to the boom with the boom to mast clamp in this manner, the forward gain can be reduced by half. Installing the pipe through the elements to equal of exceed their height can further distort the radiation pattern to the point where a vertically polarized yagi may have greater gain off the sides than forward.
- 2: Don't sidemount any vertically polarized antenna within the 'cone' of the guy wires without ensuring that the antenna is no closer than a wavelength at its operating frequency from the closest guy wires. Also, the guy wires directly in the field of the antenna must be 'broken' up as appropriate intervals with strain insulators to preclude interaction.
- 3: Don't sidemount an omnidirectional pattern antenna on any tower, guyed or self-supporting, without careful consideration of the effect the spacing of the antenna from the tower will have upon its radiation pattern. If the tower is guyed, the considerations in point 2 will also apply.
- 4: Exposed dipole type antennas (omni or offset pattern) should not be installed on top of towers with the bottom of the lowest dipole closer than one half wavelength to the top of the tower or support structure. The antenna support mast should also be clamped to the antenna base pipe on the side away from the lowest dipole.
- 5: In Canada and locations in the northern U.S.A. don't sidemount antennas on towers without providing protection over the antenna from ice that could fall from the top of the tower during the winter months.
- 6: Don't install any antenna on top of any tower, mast, or high structure without ensuring that adequate lightning protection has been provided by appropriate grounding either via the grounded structure itself or by an adequate direct grounding of the antenna.
- 7: When installing coaxial transmission lines and interconnecting cables, always check to insure that the insides of the mating connectors are free from metal particles and that the connectors themselves are compatible with each other.

JUNE HI-Q

The following was written by a one time member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. In fact Hec bought the once clubs radio shack at inter city and made it his home until it burned to the ground in January of 1961. Hec Wilson, VE3-DMZ became a silent key in 1964, but if you read on, what he wrote still applies today.

Did you ever sit down and meditate  
On the Ham that used to co-operate  
To raise antenna or tune a beam  
All this, is but a dream  
You can seek him out, but you will seek in vain  
Unless, of course, there's some personal gain.

It's bad to let this attitude grow  
It deals Ham radio a terrible blow  
(Local hams need have no fear  
(Of course it could not happen here)  
I'd wager you'd be the first to fight  
If someone called you a parasite

But why leave it up to just a few  
To keep your hobby alive for you?  
Your club like a chain, if you stop to think  
Is only as strong as its weakest link  
United we stand, divided we fall  
Isn't a fallacy after all

Unity gives strength to negotiate  
For frequency and license plate  
In case to some it isn't clear  
We only meet 10 times a year  
Plus a couple of picnics and a field day of course  
But come to the meetings, get the news at its source

Perhaps there are members that you despise  
But join us if only to criticize  
A thought just struck me, I hope it's absurd  
Maybe you don't want to be seen with the common herd  
But in Amateur circles it's considered quite proper  
For Prince to mingle with lowly pauper

We now have a weapon dumped in our lap  
To put North West Ontario on the map  
The weapon of course is our own High Q  
But the ammunition of course must come from you  
I doubt if we have the authors touch  
And therefore won't be judged as such.

We're only asked to do our best  
And all will be read with interest  
Who knows, someday through the land  
High-Q will be in such demand  
Your contribution however small  
Will be appreciated by us all  
Now that there isn't much more to be said  
I'll bravely sign....VE3-DMZ

This poem has been reprinted in several club bulletins in Canada in the past few years. More was written about Hec and the early days of ham radio in this in the September, October and November 1978 issues of HI-Q. Lakehead Amateur Radio Club History Project

LARC

JUNE HI -Q

BAR - B - CUE

An impromptu bar - b - cue was held at the estate of Pat HFS on Saturday May 24, 1980 in honour of ZK1DR, Allen wife Colleen and family from Raratonga, Cook Islands.

The big event started around 4pm and continued throughout the evening.

This was a family event, with the kids invited. Hamburgers and hot dogs suitably prepared by Vic JAR, were quickly devoured by the youngsters and some of the oldsters. A tremendous roast beef, prepared by Ron KJ with the help of the AIRLANE hotel, was served in fine fashion for the adults, along with fresh baked buns, butter, numerous salads and of course various cakes for desert. Each individual supplied his own liquid refreshment topped of by some hombrew(-ed)coffee.

Very close to 50 adults attended with about 15 - 20 children running wild on the farm. Very few bugs made the event most enjoyable.

Allen and his wife were presented with a card, signed by all in attendance, and an ornamental amethyst tree complete with agate leaves. A very well suited gift as a reminder of their trip to Thunder Bay area. Allen was also presented with the LARC certificate and his VX award.

The evening finished off with a slide presentation on a DX - pediton to PENRHYN island in the pacific. Allen provided the narration which made the slides come to life.

Special thanks to PAT hfs and Bill XJ for showing Allen and family around and providing room and board, and to everyone else who helped out. The club should have more of these events. When is the next one Ron??.

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As this is the last issue of HI - Q for this club season may I wish each of you a happy and safe summer. Keep track of anything interesting for publishing in HI - Q for the September issue. Give some thought to participating in club activities, volunteer to write and article for HI - Q, or for any of the other numerous events the club sponsors. Election time again in September, think now about taking on a position. If every member volunteered for only one job YOU the member will benefit.

I have been here in the Bay for one year and have really enjoyed the club activities. I think we should however strive to increase the membership, make the monthly meeting more interesting - business meeting are very boring - and tend to keep people away. I'm sure that there are numerous individuals out there have something to say and of interest to the other club members, Why not volunteer to provide some program at a club meeting next year.

Until September